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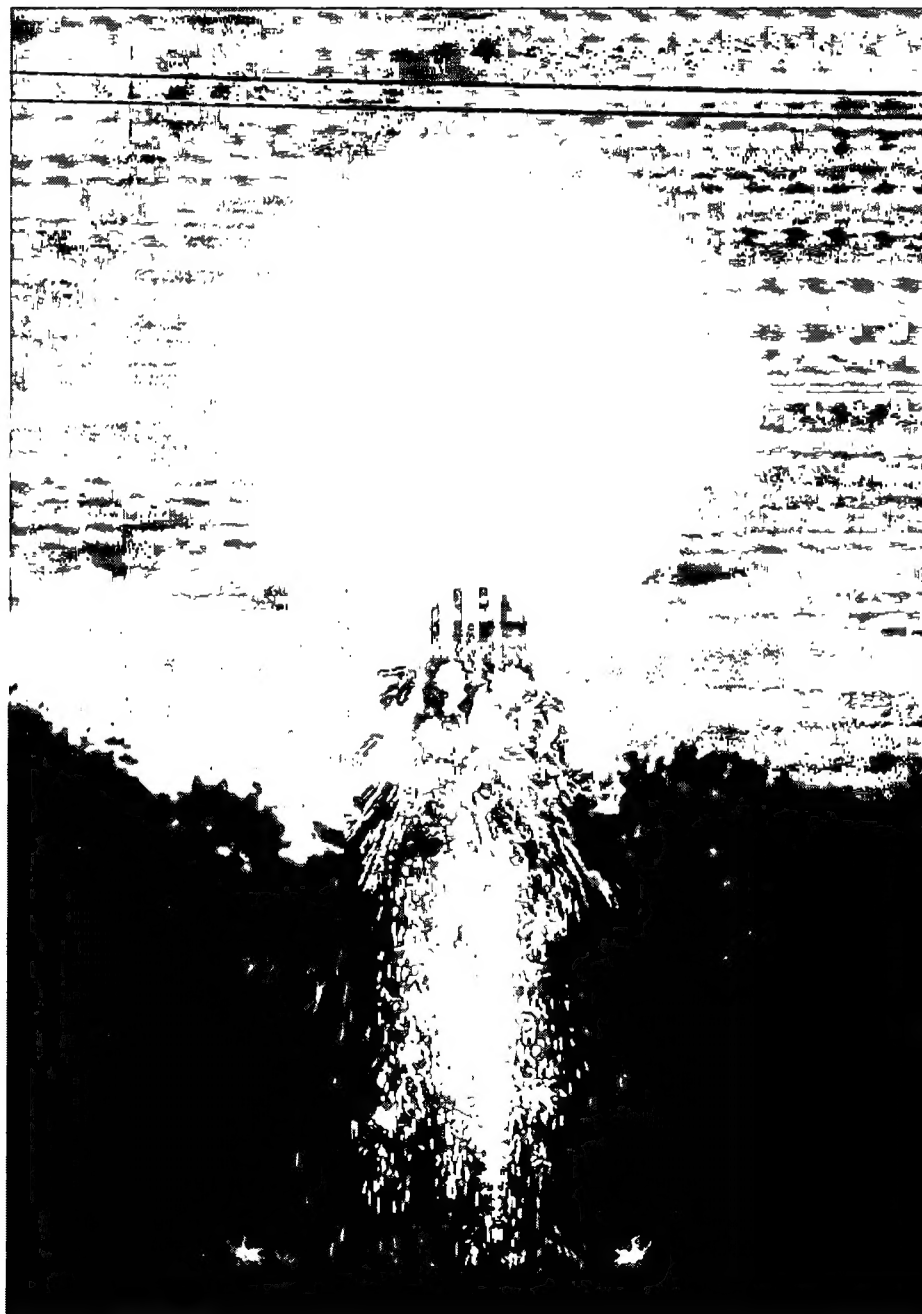
MUFON International Symposium, July 14-16, Denver, CO, featuring Brian Boldman, Carl Feindt, Linda Moulton Howe, David Marler, Ted Phillips, Ron Regehr, Steve Reichmuth, Kenneth Storch, Marshall Vian Summers, Ruben Uriarte, and Ryan Wood.

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*This UFO apparently set a woods on fire near Gaffney, SC.
The report begins on page 3. (Graphic by Greg Kuzma.)*

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Mutual UFO Network
Post Office Box 369
Morrison, CO 80465-0369
Tel: 303-932-7709
Fax: 303-932-9279

International Director
John F. Schuessler, M.S.
Tel: 303-932-7709
schuessler@mho.net

Editor:
Dwight Connelly, M.S.
14026 Ridgelawn Road
Martinsville, IL 62442
Tel: (217) 382-4502
mufonufjournal@hotmail.com

Advertising Director:
John F. Schuessler, M.S.

Columnists:
George Filer, M.B.A.
Stanton Friedman, M.S.
Gavin A. J. McLeod
Ted Phillips

Staff artist
John Egerton

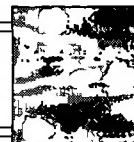
MUFON on the Internet:
<http://www.mufon.com>

MUFON e-mail address:
mufonhq@aol.com

MUFON Amateur Radio Net:
40 meters - 7.240 MHz
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Director's Message

By John F. Schuessler



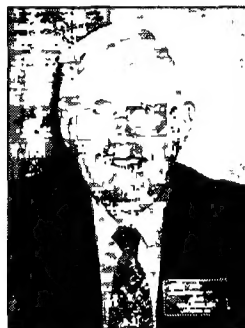
Please plan to attend the MUFON Symposium in July

A lot of good things have been happening in MUFON, and we are going to be talking about them at the 2006 MUFON International UFO Symposium, held at the Marriott Tech Center Hotel in Denver on the weekend of July 14-16.

For this reason, it is extremely important for all state directors and assistant state directors to attend the state directors meeting on Friday, July 14, at 9 AM.

The MUFON Business Board of Directors will meet with the state directors to share our successes, new projects, and upcoming changes in MUFON. It will be a breakthrough event, so you won't want to miss this meeting.

As a bonus for attending, all state



John Schuessler

directors and assistant state directors in attendance will receive a free copy of the symposium proceedings book.

The Friday evening social hour, sit-down dinner, and program will be special this year. Look for surprises.

In addition, we will be holding drawings for special prizes all weekend, and will repeat the very successful "silent auction" where UFO and space collectibles will go to the highest bidder.

The proceeds from the silent auction go to support the very aggressive programs that MUFON is undertaking.

If you have ever been at a loss for words when someone asks about what evidence you have, then you won't want to miss any of the fine speakers appearing on Saturday and Sunday.

Each one will provide a wealth of well researched evidence, backed by documentation from thorough investigations.

UFO Awareness Week

The annual MUFON UFO Awareness Week will be observed July 14-

(Continued on page 23)

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MUFON's mission is the scientific study of UFOs for the benefit of humanity through investigation, research, & education.

South Carolina incident

UFO appears to start fire

By Mike Price
Field Investigator
North Carolina MUFON

The sighting

On Feb. 22, 2004, at approximately 6:15 PM, Mr. and Mrs. "M" (names on file) were driving home southbound on Cornith road near Gaffney, SC. The witnesses stated the sky was clear with a few clouds to the west resulting in a beautiful sunset.

It was just before dark, with "not a breath of wind." They noticed to their left, on the east side of Cornith road, a luminous object drifting towards the road, traveling approximately northeast to southwest, and approximately perpendicular with Cornith Road.

Mrs. M stated it was drifting slowly, was illuminated brightly, and was traveling horizontally with the ground. The object appeared approximately 2 to 3 feet in size.

The object appeared "round" to the witnesses, but Mrs. M could not determine for certain if it was spherical in shape or a round flat disc in shape. The outline of the object was "fuzzy" and not distinct, resulting in the difficulty of determining the shape.

The luminosity of the object, and its translucent appearance may have also prevented a clear impression of the shape. (See sketch on *Journal* cover)

As they realized something unusual was coming, Mr. M stopped the car in the road, and they watched the object drift over their car and roadside power lines.

Mrs. M had a better view of the object than Mr. M, and was looking up at the object from the passenger side of the car as the object crossed the road 40 to 50 feet away.

She stated the object was approximately 10 feet above the power lines as it crossed over, and made no noise.

The object was glowing brightly. She



Photo and sketch showing positions of auto and UFO.

could not describe a color of the light, but said "it might have been clear" (in color).

The witness was most impressed by a group of "rods" that protruded from the bottom/rear of the object. These rods were approximately 6 to 8 inches long, and were glowing very brightly a red color.

The witness said they appeared "very hot" like red-hot metal (known as "cherry red" in the metal working trade) or fireworks sparklers.

The rods were on the bottom of the object and tightly grouped in a circle, but were distinct and clear in view, unlike the "fuzzy" form of the overall object, and the witness was sure there were several individual rods, not one larger red form.

The red rods were emitting gold colored sparks, "not a lot of sparks, but a few," according to Mrs. M. The rods were not located in the exact center bottom of the light ball, but were displaced slightly to the "rear" of the object, according to its direction of travel through the air.

The witness had the impression the rods may have been causing, or assist-

ing, the object to move through the air, as there was no wind at that time to cause the object's movement.

As the object moved farther from the roadway in a southwesterly direction, Mrs. M could see the image of the distant clouds and sunset through the object as though the object was translucent or transparent.

The object was now moving away from them in the direction of some trees away from the road, and it began to "lose altitude."

At this point another car came up behind them (occupants unknown), and the witnesses were forced to take their eyes off the object to move their car and let the other car pass by.

Then they moved down Corinth road and turned around at Rodeo Dr. and returned northbound on Cornith road to continue watching the object.

During the minute or so that they lost visual contact with the object, it had drifted into the tops of some small trees 304 feet from Cornith road, and it had stopped moving.

Sparks were emitting from the object and falling downwards through the tree branches and brush. Suddenly, the

treetops around the object seemed to erupt in "flames."

It seemed to the witnesses at that time that the rods were very hot, and had ignited the treetops, which were without leaves, but covered in vines.

The treetop where the object stopped was about 20 feet in height, so the object had in fact descended from about 40 feet (over the powerlines) to the 20-foot height of the trees.

The "flames" that erupted in the treetops moved rapidly and seemed to the witness to move "like electricity" among the trees and limbs.

As the sparks came down from the now stationary object, the ground level suddenly ignited in a bright orange glow, and they realized they had to immediately call the fire department nearby.

They pulled into the driveway of the "B" family, and the fire department was called. The B family came out in time to see the sparks and fire beginning in the thicket of brush under the trees.

Mr. M and Mr. B then went immediately to the ground fire and attempted to put out the fire by stomping the fire with their feet. Volunteers from Corinth VFD, which is located three tenths of a mile north on Cornith road, responded quickly and extinguished the ground fire with fire extinguishers.

A number of volunteer firemen were on the scene, including Cornith VFD Fire Chief Doug Bowers.

Media reports containing references to the B family seeing the object in flight are incorrect. Mr. B states that his family saw only the sparks and fire beginning, and at no time saw the object flying.

By the time the fire department extinguished the fire, the fire chief reports it was "pitch dark."

The "metal object"

The witnesses on scene told the firemen that the fire was caused by an object that came "out of the sky," so Chief Bowers looked up in the trees over the burned area with a flashlight, as it was now dark.

In the center of the burned area, in the top of a small five-inch diameter tree, about 20 feet high, was a piece of

what appeared to be a silver-colored metal, rectangular in shape, which looked like "thin wrinkled aluminum foil."

One of the volunteer firemen described it as appearing very thin, "like a piece of a silver Mylar balloon" (as used by florists). It was approximately 6 inches by 12 inches in size. Media reports of the object being "one foot round" are incorrect.

Thinking it may be part of an aircraft in distress, Chief Bowers took the logical step of having Cherokee County Communications contact the FAA to inquire about aircraft in the area, but were told no aircraft had reported trouble, and that they "had no aircraft in the area."

The FAA person was undoubtedly referring only to IFR (instrument flight rules) aircraft on an IFR flight plan.

Visual Flight Rules (VFR) aircraft are visible on air traffic control radar either as a primary target and/or due to the transponder return, but only become of interest to the radar scope operator if the VFR aircraft gets too close to an IFR aircraft, which is their prime responsibility.

Therefore, it remains possible that an aircraft could have been in the area despite the FAA comment to the contrary to Chief Bowers the night of the incident.

The FAA person on the phone that night (identity and location not yet established) advised, "Leave it (the metal in the tree) alone until the next day."

When Chief Bowers returned the next morning in daylight with one of his men to take a better look at the metal, it was inexplicably missing from the tree.

A search of the wooded area by the firemen (and later by others including this writer) failed to find any silver colored material that could account for the silver object seen in the tree the night before.

As of the date of this report, to the best knowledge of this writer no person from the FAA has come to the scene to follow up on their instruction to "leave it alone until the next day."

Inquiry by this writer of all witnesses

interviewed revealed no one who knows the whereabouts of the missing silver metallic object.

Research since the incident has revealed several cases of UFOs dropping solid and liquid metals and metal foils.

The metal seen in the tree by the firemen the night of the incident may not have been related to the flying object. It could have been nothing more than a foil sandwich wrapper blown into the tree by the wind prior to the fire, which somehow disappeared before morning.

The ground fire

The ground fire itself was reported in the media incorrectly as a "perfect circle." In fact it is in the shape of a slight ellipse, or oval.

The fire occurred on sloping ground centered directly under the tree where the translucent flying object was seen to stop by the primary witness, Mrs. M—the same tree where the firemen later saw the silver metallic rectangle.

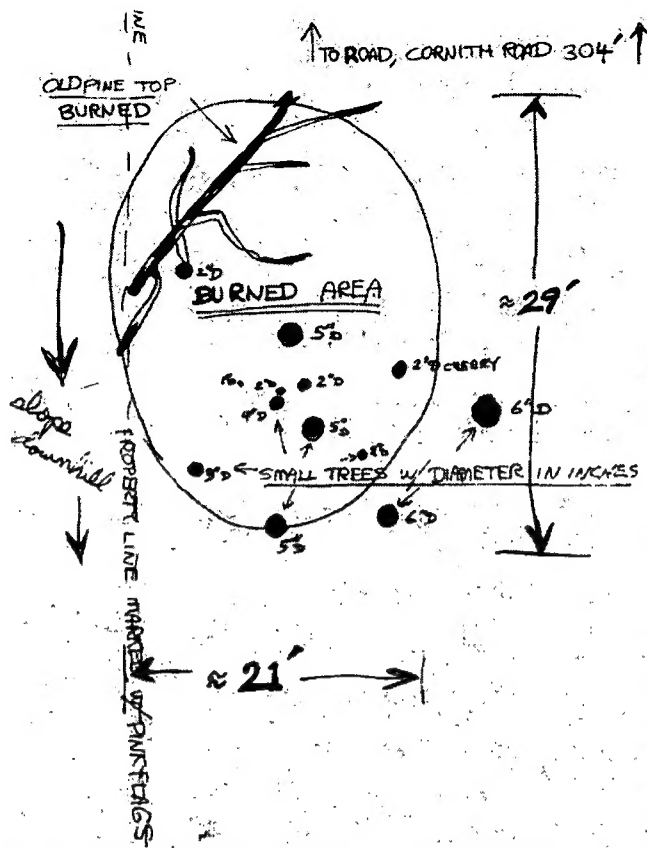
The size of the ellipse measures 21 feet by 29 feet. The longer 29 foot dimension runs up and down the slope. The slope itself measures approximately seven degrees by use of a Suunto surveying inclinometer.

Therefore, there is an approximate geometrical correlation of the dimensions and orientation of the ellipse to the slope of the ground. A perfect circle projected onto a sloping screen, or sloping ground, will produce an ellipse.

The heavy amount of moisture present in the soil and in the leaf litter in the thicket resulted in a fire that did not appear to have readily spread beyond the area directly affected by the source of ignition, whatever that might have been.

Recent rains, as well as it being the time of year in this area when the ground does not dry quickly, apparently limited the spreading of the fire, although it is impossible to determine the actual degree to which the fire did spread.

An observation of the fire scene which corroborates the view that the fire did very little spreading is the very distinct edge of the elliptical burned area.



Sketch of site from above.

This distinct elliptically-shaped burned area occurred in spite of the fact that the potential fuel available for the fire in the form of leaf litter, sticks, limbs, vines and brush is present fairly evenly both inside and outside the burned area.

If a ground fire like this occurred in dry conditions, the rapid and uneven spreading through the leaf litter and brush would quickly cause the shape of the burned area to lose its round symmetry, and become odd-shaped due to air movement, topography, fuel hot spots, and random fluxuations of the flames.

The lack of this occurring, resulting in the neat elliptical burned area indicates just how damp the leaf litter and sticks on the ground were, and also may indicate that the source of ignition of this fire may have predisposed the fire to a roughly circular pattern.

Chief Bowers has officially ruled the cause of the fire "unknown," because no source of ignition could be found. There were no indications that a conventional accelerant, such as gasoline

or oil, had been used to cause the fire.

An admittedly speculative alternative explanation for the drying, heating, and ignition could be some form of radiant energy from the flying object, casting a circular pattern on the ground which became an elliptical pattern upon striking the sloping ground.

A request made by this writer to the Cherokee County, SC, Office of Emergency Management to check the burned area with their radiological test instrument for any residual radiation has at the time of this writing not occurred.

As of the date of this writer's first visit to the site on Feb. 25, 64

hours after the incident, the soil still appeared very damp both inside and outside the burned area, so was not desiccated as in some other cases.

Mrs. M was very aware of the local conditions, and was a very perceptive observer. She stated that it had not rained at that location since the day of the event, so the soil moisture conditions observed by this writer were essentially the same as the day of the event.

Fifty-four color photographs were taken of the burned area, trees, and power lines with 200 and 400 speed print film in a Canon EOS 620 35mm camera.

Two magnetic compasses were used inside and outside the burned area to attempt to determine if the site had any magnetic disturbances. The needle was steady on both compasses, although the trees and brush around the burned area and the local topography made it impossible to sight a distant object to verify if the compasses were indicating north correctly.

A tri-field meter or other similar in-

strument is needed to further check for any magnetic disturbance, and this writer does not feel that magnetic disturbance can be ruled out at this time.

It has not been possible for Chief Bowers or others visiting the scene, including MUFON field investigator Dr. David Woods, who has taught fire science and arson investigation at the college level, to determine the source of the fire.

The "fire" in the tree

Before the ground fire began, the witnesses saw fire appear to erupt in the trees where the luminous object landed. Mrs. M stated that the trees suddenly burst into "gold" flame as the sparks issued from the red rods on the bottom of the object.

She seemed to search for words to explain this fire, and finally said the fire looked like "electricity" moving among the branches. However, close examination of the trees and branches could find no evidence of any blackening, burning, or scorching in the trees.

The witnesses' description of the "fire" in the trees, and then, shortly after, the fire on the ground indicated that the fire in the trees looked different than the ground fire.

The tree fire is described as being like electricity, gold in color, and moving among the treetops and branches, while the ground fire appeared as an orange fire glow.

When the orange ground fire erupted, it apparently looked more like a conventional woods fire, and that is when the witnesses realized that the fire department was needed.

Study of the fire scene bears out completely Mrs. M's observation of the different appearance of these two fires. As stated earlier, the trees have no apparent sign of fire except a few inches of the trunks at ground level caused by the ground fire. Further investigation of the treetops is needed.

Follow-up visit

A four-person group returned to the site on March 2 to look for additional information. This group included South Carolina MUFON State Director Cheryl Gilmore, Assistant Director Arlene Chukusky, MUFON Field In-

vestigator Dr. David Woods, and this writer.

Soil samples were taken from both inside and outside the burned area. The samples were placed in sterile bottles, and each one labeled as to the location where it was taken. This sampling and labeling was observed by the group.

The person digging the samples noted a difference in the difficulty of digging inside and outside the burned elliptical area. The soil was easily dug inside the burned area, and was difficult to dig outside the burned area.

The reason for this difference is unknown. It may be due to the previous activity of the firefighters on the scene, due to the fire itself, due to the fire extinguisher chemical residue on the soil, or due to other unknown factors.

Videotape was made of the burned area for approximately one hour, which resulted in a tape that was blank except for 5 minutes.

The camcorder used, which had no previous problems, inexplicably shut off by itself several times during taping (occurring with two different operators), even though the switch was on.

This writer was the principal operator, and found that by turning the switch off and then back on the camcorder would seem to operate normally again for a time and would show a normal image on the flip out screen. Then the cycle would repeat.

At the time of taping this seemed to be just an annoyance. Later, at a different location, when the tape was found to be mostly blank, the camcorder with the same tape was tested successfully. It was then realized that the camcorder malfunction could be site related.

No explanation is yet known for this problem; however the tape will be analysed, and the camcorder checked.

Additional still photographs were taken with three different still cameras. Two of these still cameras were disposable color print cameras, and one was digital. One of the disposable cameras was used for only three photos.

When developed, two of these photos were normal, but one photo of the burned area has an anomalous image in the center with enough trees around



Swirl effect from one of the throwaway cameras.

the edges to prove that it was not due to camera movement.

It appears as a white swirling pattern, and seems to have a center point, low in the frame, that it is rotating about. No explanation is known at this time for this swirling image.

The other disposable print film camera, operated by another person, produced some photos with white blobs and with some blue haze. These photos and the original negatives are available and will be analysed by professionals to determine if they were affected by a malfunction of the camera or film, lens flare, or some other problem.

On both of the site visits of Feb. 25 and Mar. 2, a piece of clear thin plastic was seen in the top of one of the trees in the burned area. On the 25th, a small piece of the same material was found on the ground in the burned area, under the larger piece in the tree.

This material is clear and smooth and melted around the edges. It appears to be clear kitchen food wrap that may have blown into the treetop prior to the fires.

It is irregularly shaped and about eight inches in diameter. This material was also collected as a sample to be analysed.

Soil test results

Soil samples taken on March 2, 2004, were sent to Nancy Talbott of BLT Research, Cambridge, MA, and were analyzed by Phyllis Budinger of Frontier Analysis, Ltd, Chagrin Falls, OH.

The Gaffney MUFON investigators were fortunate to have the professional assistance of Nancy Talbott, who advised on soil sample collection.

Many hours of work by BLT Research and Frontier Analysis went into processing these samples. The complete seventeen-page soil test report produced by Frontier Analysis, Ltd. is "Technical Service Response No. UT043," and the following information is summarized from that report.

An important test was for the presence or absence of any accelerants such as gas, oil, or any other flammable liquid that would indicate the fire was a hoax or unrelated to the flying object.

No accelerants were found in the soil samples, confirming the opinion of Fire Chief Bowers, who did not detect accelerants at the fire scene. Lack of hydrocarbon accelerants support the opinion of the witnesses that the flying object was the apparent cause of the fire.

Two chemical substances were found in some of the samples from the burned area, and also from some control samples. Frontier Analysis Ltd. reported "high concentrations" of Ammonium Chloride in all the burn area and control samples.

In addition, Calcium Nitrate was found in roughly the same high concentration in two control samples and one burn area sample.

According to *The Chemical Dictionary*, uses for Ammonium Chloride include "dry batteries, dyeing and printing, soldering flux, manufacturing of various ammonia compounds, fertilizer, zinc coating processes, electroplating, washing powders, snow melting treatments, bakery products, and urea-formaldehyde resins and adhesives."

Uses for Calcium Nitrate include "pyrotechnics, explosives, matches, fertilizers, other nitrates, source of 14C by Nuclear Irradiation." This substance is also listed as a hazard: "strong oxidizer, dangerous fire risk in contact with organic materials, may explode if shocked or heated."

Since both of these chemicals could possibly result from fertilizer application, the landowner was consulted. The site had previously been a hay field, and had annual applications of fertilizer.

Hay fields do not normally have heavy fertilization, due to cost. The hay operation had been suspended due to the site changing to housing.

The last fertilizer application in this area was many months prior to February 2004, likely occurring in the early spring of 2003 for the 2003 hay crop.

In addition, the samples collected were not in the hay field, but in the woods adjacent to the hay field.

The bulk delivery of fertilizer on the hay field would be broadcast by truck or tractor, so it is possible that some small amount of fertilizer could have been cast into the edge of the wooded area.

However, the burned area is too far into the woods from the field edge for fertilizer to account for the concentrations of these chemicals.

The time elapsed from the last fer-

tilizer application also does not support the view that fertilizer is the sole cause of these chemicals, as fertilizer would not likely remain in these strong concentrations nearly a year later even in the hay field itself.

Calcium Nitrate is particularly unstable and not likely to be present in strong concentrations after that length of time.

The other possibility considered is that these chemicals are residue from an unknown process that caused the fire, or residue from the flying object.

However, no evidence has been found to tie these chemicals to the flying object, and the investigation cannot account for why these two chemicals are present in the samples.

Cases involving fire similar to the Gaffney case have been reported in recent years from Arkansas, Ohio, Indiana, and other areas.

Nuclear plants in area

The incident occurred approximately five miles southwest of the site of the defunct Cherokee Nuclear Power Station. This station was never completed, and was never in operation.

The incident site also lies approximately on a line between currently operating nuclear power stations approximately 25 and 35 miles to the northeast and 75 miles to the southwest, which coincidentally is the general direction of travel of the object.

Prior incidents in area

Initial checking for prior incidents of unidentified flying objects in this area reveal an Oct. 13, 1983, sighting of a glowing oval-shaped UFO about 20 feet above a home.

Another brief report from the area which bears further investigation is from Gaffney on Nov. 17, 1966, which reads as follows:

"Patrolmen A.G. Huskey and C. Hutchins saw a dark spherical machine with a flat rim land near them. Estimated diameter: 7 meters. An opening and a short ladder became visible, and a small man dressed in a shiny gold suit emerged, came within 6 meters of them, and spoke in perfect English before taking off."

It is hoped to find the location and detailed report of this event. Other sightings of unidentified flying objects have occurred in an area within a 100-mile radius of Gaffney within the past few years.

A final observation concerning these other cases is a similarity of the description of the flying object from Feb. 22 with the drawings included in an article by George Fawcett in *Flying Saucer Review*.

Of five objects seen in North and South Carolina, two show round and oval objects with rods protruding from the bottom.

The two objects were from sightings in Gaffney in October, 1983, and at Lake Norman on Oct. 18, 1982. The descriptions do not totally match in size and detail, but there remains a strong similarity due to the presence of the "rods" protruding from the bottom of round-shaped unidentified flying objects

Credibility of witnesses

The witnesses and the two firemen interviewed all seem to be highly credible, honest, and respected citizens of their community with no prior interest in, or detailed knowledge of, the UFO subject.

In no way do any of the witnesses desire publicity or financial reward. Quite the contrary, the witnesses request their identity withheld from this report. The media intruded into their community following the sighting, and the witnesses do not desire to repeat that experience.

The owner of the property has posted his land and does not want visitors or trespassers in the area.

Any reader of this report is urged by this writer to respect the wishes of the community and avoid any contact. All necessary site work is being done by MUFON volunteers, and any contact should be made with MUFON.

Conclusions

The possibility of a hoax balloon purposefully crafted by someone and released in order to fool people in the area must be considered.

However, it would be extremely dif-

ficult to construct a balloon that could carry enough lights and batteries for the lights to create the illumination, some type of fireworks to create the impression of red hot rods emitting gold sparks, and enough liquid accelerant such as gasoline to cause the fire.

In addition, this remote area seems an unlikely place for perpetrating a hoax. It was only by chance that the witnesses saw the object.

Most telling is the total lack of any of these theoretical hoax balloon parts being found at the scene of the fire, either the night of the fire or anytime later. In addition, no accelerant was found at the site.

This writer wishes to thank the following people for their assistance in the preparation of this report:

Don Johnson for internet research; Lindy Tucker and Nancy Talbott for advice and help in laboratory analysis; Phyllis Budinger for expert analysis; fellow investigators Dr. David Woods, Cheryl Gilmore, and Arlene Chukusky; and most importantly the witnesses who have been willing to assist the investigation.

Rating of case

Since the witnesses were less than 500 feet from the object, it caused a fire and "scorched earth" (physical trace evidence), and since the object may have also left behind at least temporarily the missing silver metal object in the tree, this writer rates this case as a CE-2 (close encounter 2) on the Hynek system.

Silent Auction donations still needed

This year's MUFON Symposium, like last year, will have the attraction of the popular and successful Silent Auction as a MUFON fundraiser.

We need some interesting items donated, such as signed or rare UFO books, signed photos, vintage magazines, and other UFO items.

If you can donate something, contact Tom Deuley, P.O. Box 29, Canutillo, TX 79835; email him at tpdeuley@aol.com, or call him at 915-276-1314.

Part Three

AF personnel say UFOs visited ICBM sites

By Robert L. Hastings

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Editor's Note: This is Part Three of Hastings' research in which personnel relate incidents involving UFOs at the nation's ICBM and nuclear facilities.

TSgt. Jeff Goodrich (USAF Ret.)—Former team chief of missile handling, 341st Maintenance Squadron, Malmstrom AFB, MT:

Goodrich states that on Feb. 2, 1996, he and an officer, whom I will not identify here, observed a loose formation of five triangular-shaped objects flying above Great Falls, MT, which is located just west of Malmstrom.

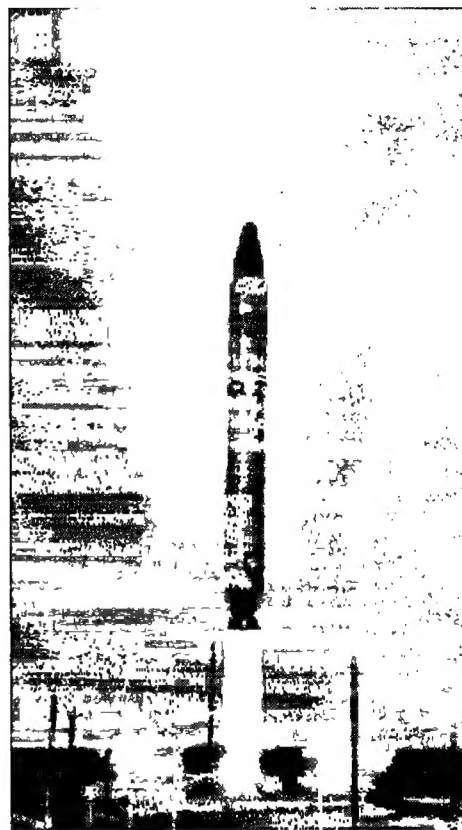
At the time of the sighting, both had been working at the Missile Roll Transfer Building, a remote site located some miles from the main base.

When first sighted, the objects were about 75 degrees above the horizon. They made no sound that the two men could discern, and left no contrails. Due to distance and glare, no surface detail was visible on any of the craft.

Goodrich noted that the objects flew in unison, moving slowly from north to south. On two occasions, all five appeared motionless for 10-15 seconds. After the second hover, the objects suddenly accelerated, made a sweeping arc to the southwest, and soon disappeared over the horizon.

Goodrich estimated the objects' altitude to be 15-20,000 feet. This guess was based, in part, on statements made to him by personnel working at Malmstrom's air traffic control tower.

After contacting them, he had been told that nothing out of the ordinary had been detected on radar at the time of the sighting—but was also told that the



tower didn't track aircraft above 10,000 feet.

Immediately after contacting the base's air traffic control tower, Goodrich called Great Falls International Airport. The controllers there also denied tracking unknown aircraft at the time of his sighting.

Given that Goodrich reported the UFOs' shape to be triangular, some skeptics might say that he and the officer had merely observed a flight of F-117A "stealth" fighter-bombers.

Due to its unique design, an airborne F-117A can appear, from certain angles, to be nearly triangular. Moreover, the aircraft's stealth capability would explain why the flight had not been tracked on radar.

However, because Goodrich is certain that he and the officer had twice

observed all five objects briefly hovering, this prosaic proposal would seem an unlikely solution. The F-117A is an amazing aircraft, but it cannot remain motionless in the air.

Furthermore, Goodrich described the UFOs as being bright white in color and occasionally exhibiting glare as their position varied in relation to the sun.

An F-117A is painted flat black and appears dark against the sky, under all lighting and atmospheric conditions.

Jeff included two hand-drawn diagrams of the objects in his report about the sighting. The first one depicts their positions relative to one another in the sky.

The second illustrates each object's shape—an isosceles triangle—with two sides of equal length. The third, shorter side was on the trailing edge of each object as it flew.

I asked Goodrich if he could determine whether the UFOs had flown or hovered over ICBM facilities at any time during the sighting. He replied that after the objects turned southwest, and left the city limits, they would have briefly passed over the India Flight missile field.

However, he said that it did not appear that they had lingered in that vicinity. Instead, they continued to move steadily away, and eventually faded from view.

(It should also be noted that when the objects approached Great Falls, they had to have flown over other missile fields located north of the city. However, I am not aware of any information currently available to suggest a close-proximity incident at any ICBM LCF or LF, related to the sighting.)

F.E. Warren AFB, Wyoming (1965):

Comment: Beginning at 1:30 AM on Aug. 1, 1965, various personnel at F.E. Warren AFB, WY—including the base commander—telephoned the Air Force's UFO Project Blue Book at Wright-Patterson AFB to report several UFO sightings at Warren's Minuteman missile sites.

The officer who fielded and logged the telephone calls to Blue Book that night was a Lt. Anspaugh. A memorandum summarizing these telephone

calls was published in 1972 by Dr. J. Allen Hynek, the civilian scientific consultant to the project, in his book *The UFO Experience: A Scientific Inquiry*.

Inserted below are the verbatim entries in Lt. Anspaugh's memo:

"1:30 AM—Captain Snelling, of the U.S. Air Force command post near Cheyenne, Wyoming, called to say that 15 to 20 phone calls had been received at the local radio station about a large circular object emitting several colors but no sound, sighted over the city. Two officers and one airman controller at the base reported that after being sighted directly over base operations, the object had begun to move rapidly to the northeast.

"2:20 AM—Colonel Johnson, base commander of Francis E. Warren Air Force Base, near Cheyenne, Wyoming, called Dayton to say that the commanding officer of the Sioux Army Depot saw five objects at 1:45 AM and reported an alleged configuration of two UFOs previously reported over E Site.

"At 1:49 AM members of E flight reportedly saw what appeared to be the same [formation] reported at 1:48 AM by G flight. Two security teams were dispatched from E flight to investigate.

"2:50 AM—Nine more UFOs were sighted, and at 3:35 AM Colonel Williams, commanding officer of the Sioux Army Depot at Sydney, Nebraska, reported five UFOs going east.

"4:05 AM—Colonel Johnson made another phone call to Dayton to say that at 4 AM Q flight reported nine UFOs in sight; four to the northwest, three to the northeast, and two over Cheyenne.

"4:40 AM—Captain Howell, Air Force Command Post, called Dayton and Defense Intelligence Agency to report that a Strategic Air Command Team at Site H-2 at 3 AM reported a white oval UFO directly overhead.

"Later Strategic Air Command Post passed the following: Francis E. Warren Air Force Base reports (Site B-4 3:17 AM)—A UFO 90 miles east of Cheyenne at a high rate of speed and descending—oval and white with white lines on its sides and a flashing red light in its center moving east; reported to have landed 10 miles east of the site.

"3:20 AM—Seven UFOs reported east of the site.

"3:25 AM—E Site reported six UFOs stacked vertically.

3:27 AM—G-1 reported one ascending, and at the same time E-2 reported two additional UFOs had joined the seven for a total of nine.

"3:28 AM—G-1 reported a UFO descending further, going east.

"3:32 AM—The same site has a UFO climbing and leveling off.

"3:40 AM—G Site reported one UFO at 70' azimuth and one at 120'. Three now came from the east, stacked vertically, passed through the other two, with all five heading west."

(End of summary.)

Airman 2nd Class Robert R. Thompson—Former air policeman, 809th Combat Defense Squadron, at F.E. Warren AFB, WY:

Thompson states that he was on duty at the Quebec Flight Launch Control Facility one night in 1965 when he got a telephone call from the underground launch capsule.

The missile combat crew commander asked Thompson and his partner to walk outside and look straight up. Thinking this was a joke of some kind, the two air policemen nevertheless complied.

Directly overhead, Thompson saw eight stationary lights, much brighter and larger than stars, grouped together in four pairs. Due to their altitude and brilliance, it was not possible to determine the objects' shape or other details.

Thompson said that one light eventually left its position and began to roam among the others, moving slowly from pair to pair. He and his partner watched the mysterious aerial formation for about 10 minutes before reporting the sighting to the missile commander.

In response, Thompson was informed that NORAD, located at Cheyenne Mountain, CO, had earlier notified FE Warren that its radars were tracking eight unknown objects hovering in the vicinity of the Quebec launch control site.

Apparently Warren's Command Center had called the LCF and asked the missile commander to verify their presence.

Said Thompson, "I wasn't sure what we were seeing until I reported back to the launch commander. When he told

me of the report of UFOs from Cheyenne Mountain, I could tell by his voice that he wasn't joking."

Thompson states that he and his partner were never debriefed, or warned to remain silent about the incident, but he never again mentioned it to the missile commander.

Perhaps significantly, the Blue Book memorandum inserted above may lend credence to Thompson's report. Specifically, this entry:

"4:05 AM—Colonel Johnson made another phone call to Dayton to say that at 4 AM Q flight reported nine UFOs in sight; four to the northwest, three to the northeast, and two over Cheyenne."

However, because Thompson cannot remember the date of his own sighting at "Q," or Quebec Flight, it may or may not have been the same incident noted above.

In any event, Thompson's sighting was not the last UFO incident to be reported at Quebec Flight during that period. Less than a week later, he had been approached by another individual in his unit and told about a far more dramatic incident.

"We worked three days on, three days off," Thompson said, "One crew would relieve the other. Shortly after the sighting, when my crew returned to the LCF, an acquaintance came up and told me that while we were off-duty, he had been involved in another UFO sighting, at one of Q-Flight's launch facilities."

According to this individual, he and his partner had been on stake-out duty one night, and were sitting in a Security Alert Team (SAT) camper that was parked next to the missile silo. Without warning, the vehicle began to shake violently.

He quickly leaned his head out the window and saw a large, very bright light silently hovering directly above the camper. After a few seconds, the shaking ceased and the light rapidly departed.

The SAT guard went on to tell Thompson that he and his partner had later been debriefed by an OSI agent and ordered not to talk about the incident.

However, in spite of this warning, he had nevertheless felt compelled to



compare notes with Thompson, whose own UFO experience had occurred less than a week earlier, and was common knowledge among the missile guards at Quebec Flight.

After hearing this strange story, Thompson approached the Non-Commissioned Officer In Charge (NCOIC) who had been on duty at Quebec the night of the camper incident and asked him to verify it.

To his surprise, the NCOIC did so. Furthermore, he told Thompson that he had personally seen the UFO as it hovered over the LF.

"The launch facility in question was the one located closest to the LCF," said Thompson. "Even though it was five, maybe six, miles away, the NCOIC told me that on the night of the incident he had seen an extremely bright light hovering over its location."

Thompson said that he later heard that the UFO activity at various missile flights had continued for about a month.

Comment: Although the bizarre report involving the camper is strikingly similar to a scene in Steven Spielberg's 1977 movie, *Close Encounters of the Third Kind*, UFO researchers Jim Klotz and Tom Tulien have heard a nearly-identical account from a former USAF missile guard who was stationed at

Minot AFB, ND, in 1968.

Airman 2nd Class Terry Stuck—Former Air Policeman, 809th Combat Defense Squadron, F.E. Warren AFB, WY:

Stuck states that one morning in the summer of 1965, while reporting for duty at the Oscar Flight LCF, he was informed about a UFO sighting by the departing night-shift guards. "The night team had observed fast-moving lights or objects," said Stuck, "vehicles moving with incredible speed."

Apparently, during the shift-change the departing security team leader also informed the arriving missile commander about the UFOs. Stuck overheard the exchange.

"The OIC (Officer in Charge) was a captain—I don't recall his name," said Stuck. "I do remember him saying that he had been a pilot in Korea and had observed UFOs and had reported the incident. He said they had sent him to the base psychiatrist and had basically put a stop on advancements in his career."

The moral of this story was clear to Stuck and the departing security team leader: be careful what you report, because there may be repercussions. Stuck did not know whether the team leader had ever filed an official report about the incident.

In any event, the Oscar Flight UFO sighting incident is not mentioned in the Project Blue Book memorandum inserted above. Perhaps it took place on another date during that period, or perhaps it did indeed occur on Aug. 1, but went unreported.

A few days after these events, Stuck had his own UFO sighting, again at the Oscar Flight LCF. "The observations," he recalled, "were actually made in front of the launch control security facility which was at ground level, facing the access gate of the main launch control facility.

"I was never able to determine the size or shapes [of the UFOs]. When I saw them, they were at extreme distances and were doing right [angle] turns at unbelievable speeds. I never heard any sounds."

F.E. Warren AFB, Wyoming (1973-74):

1st Lt. Walter F. Billings—Former Minuteman ICBM launch officer (deputy missile combat crew commander), 90th Strategic Missile Wing, F.E. Warren AFB, WY:

I have inserted below excerpts from Billings' first letter to me, with a few clarifications (in parentheses) and minor modifications relating to grammar and punctuation:

"Dear Mr. Hastings,

"I arrived at F.E. Warren AFB in Cheyenne, Wyoming, in late January of 1972 from Vandenburg AFB [where I] had been trained in Minuteman I. After further training at F.E. Warren [I] was sent with the operations crews as a deputy missile commander and assigned to a squadron for the typical duty as a 2nd lieutenant.

"I was later trained as a training officer for the [missile] wing in Minuteman I, which encompassed assisting new arrivals in training and running simulators, and other duties. [These were] the standard duties until the spring of 1973.

"As a first lieutenant, along with so many others, [I] went back to school at F.E. Warren to learn the new Minuteman III system that was to be installed during the year of 1973. After training and evaluations, alert duties were assigned for the new system to those that had completed their training.

"We were to go on alerts as the new missile system was installed. In those days, F.E. Warren had 200 missiles on alert and was very active. I am afraid that the dates that I will provide are somewhat vague.

"I wrote my experiences for a publication in this arena back in September, 1993, and even then the dates were not exact. Also, some of the missile terminology may not be exact. I have forgotten some of the terms. I am sorry that I did not keep a private log of these events, back when they occurred.

"The first event took place in the fall of 1973. Over half of the LCCs (Launch Control Centers) had been converted to Minuteman III by this time, and I was on alert at Golf LCC. It was late at night. The UHF radio linking all twenty LCCs opened up with urgent talk from India LCC.

"In those days, the UHF radio was turned on, at all times, and if one LCC spoke to their SAT (Security Alert Team) or other LCCs, all twenty LCCs heard the conversation.

"After the India crew received an Outer Security Zone [alarm] on one of their missiles, and sent their SAT crew out for the standard investigation trip, we began to hear over the radio the events that developed.

"From the UHF radio communication between the SAT and the India LCC crew, as we listened, we heard that as the truck was heading to the missile silo, the Inner Security Zone [alarm] had been tripped at the silo.

"Upon arriving near the subject silo, the SAT team observed a bright UFO hovering above the silo. The LCC crew advised the SAT team to proceed no further and to observe only.

"Approximately a minute later, the UFO moved off slowly for several thousand feet, and then sped off at a high rate of speed. The conversation between the India LCC crew and the SAT team was heard by 19 other LCC crews on duty that night.

"Upon relief by the next crew and upon return to F.E. Warren AFB, all crews on duty that night were informed that they would not speak to civilians or the news media about what they had heard on the UHF radio. Severe penalties were mentioned for those that did

not heed this warning.

"We, the LCC crews in general, began to hear rumors and stories from other officers in operations and maintenance that SAC headquarters at Offutt AFB had sent the OSI (USAF Office of Special Investigations) to investigate this incident by helicopter.

"The India crew of that night would not speak of the incident at all. There were stories from missile maintenance that the missile in question had been carefully examined and that they found the target tapes (which guide the H-bomb warheads to their targets) on the three warheads had supposedly been erased that night by the UFO.

"Needless to say, I only heard that these things had occurred. These stories were told between missile guys over the following week, but they were reliable people who did not speak to civilians or the press about this subject. However, the squadron commanders warned us, again, not to speak of the incident.

"The second incident involved an entire missile maintenance crew, I believe six enlisted men and one officer. This also occurred in late 1973. A Minuteman III missile was being worked on for some routine problem during one of those late fall nights.

"A UFO was observed by the entire maintenance crew. The UFO appeared to be watching the work, and was seen for a full five minutes as it maneuvered close to the missile silo. This was told to me by a missile maintenance 1st lieutenant, approximately three days after the incident occurred.

"The third incident took place in early spring of 1974. As I was arriving at Charlie LCC in the morning with my captain to begin an alert duty, we were told by the staff sergeant and two security police who had been on duty that night of the strange thing that had happened.

"They told us that a UFO had actually landed near the LCC and had been observed by the three, and that a minute-by-minute report had been given to the operations crew downstairs.

"When we asked about this, as we were relieving the LCC crew for our duty to begin, they would not talk about

it with us. I heard a few days later that the staff sergeant was in some sort of trouble for speaking to us about what he saw, and that the OSI was again involved.

"While I was in SAC, I personally was not directly involved with a UFO incident while on duty. However, during June of 1974, while on a camping trip in Dubois, WY, with three other lieutenants, we observed a UFO flying relatively low.

"It was similar to the ones that were described to us in the above three incidents. Since all four of us were Air Force lieutenants, we knew that this low-flying object was not an aircraft. From that time forward, I have had an interest in this subject and have read some on the subject as well.

"I can tell you that these three incidents at F.E. Warren AFB did occur. It was a long time ago, and I am sure many other things have happened since. I have not been able to find any written statements of these three incidents since.

"This could be because there was a very good cover-up of the situation at that time, or they were not deemed important enough to bother with. Though, I doubt that the latter is true.

"I have always wondered as to what really happened to the missile that had the UFO hovering above it, and if the warhead target tapes had really been erased.

"I wish you good luck on any research that you may do on this subject. I doubt that you will receive any help from those that might know the truth. I am sure that the cover-up that I observed many years ago is still in effect. Thank you for your interest.

"Sincerely,

"Walter F. Billings

"10/18/2002"

Comment: In an effort to obtain an informed perspective on Billings' statements, I forwarded his letter to retired USAF Lt. Col. Philip Moore, who, in 1978-79, had been the commander of the 321st Strategic Missile Squadron at F.E. Warren AFB.

Moore found the letter to be entirely credible. In an e-mail to me, dated 6/12/05, he wrote, "Billings' statement is totally believable, and his support-

ing facts are correct in spite of his dates and terminology caveats."

However, I also sent the letter to another former Minuteman missile launch officer who skeptically questioned Billings' use of the term "target tapes" when describing the Minuteman III's guidance system. (While the Minuteman I missile utilized such tapes, the Minuteman III did not.)

When I asked Moore to comment on this particular discrepancy, he replied, "[Regarding] Billings use of 'tapes' to refer to the maintenance part of the [guidance] system, the old tape system was replaced by a plug-in unit system.

"I think I remember that Billings was at F.E. Warren at the time MMI was deactivated and MMIII replaced it, having served in MMI and retrained in MMIII. Old terminology dies a slow death and the new system was often referred to as 'the tapes' for awhile after MMIII was in-place, until the old-timers got used to the new terminology."

Lt. Col. Moore's own ICBM-related UFO experience is discussed in the Walker AFB section of this article. **Walker AFB, NM, 1963-65:**

Comment: *Florida Today* newspaper columnist Billy Cox conducted the initial interviews with Jerry Nelson and Gene Lamb. His article, "UFOs Haunt Missile Crew," was published in June 2001.

1st Lt. Jerry C. Nelson—Former Atlas ICBM launch officer (deputy missile combat crew commander), 579th Strategic Missile Squadron, Walker AFB, NM:

Nelson states that on several occasions, while on alert in the underground launch capsule at Atlas Site 9, missile guards at ground-level had frantically reported a silent, very bright UFO hovering over the site.

As he told *Florida Today* columnist Billy Cox, "The guards were scared. These objects would hover over the silo and shine lights down on them without making any noise."

Nelson told me that he had personally been involved in "probably more than three but fewer than ten" such incidents over a period of a month or so.

He also remembered that the sightings had occurred "at least six

months, maybe more like a year," after the Cuban Missile Crisis of October, 1962, when the squadron had been placed on high-alert.

Oddly enough, when Nelson notified the missile squadron's Command Post about the incidents, his reports met with apparent indifference. Only much later did he learn that agents from the Office of Special Investigation had interviewed another individual regarding his knowledge of a similar incident.

1st Lt. Philip Moore—Former Atlas ICBM launch officer (deputy missile combat crew commander), 579th Strategic Missile Squadron, Walker AFB, NM:

Moore, who retired as a lieutenant colonel, states that one night in the fall of 1964, while on alert in the launch capsule at Atlas Site 7, his missile commander, Maj. Dan Gilbert, received an extraordinary call from one of their "sister sites," either Site 6 or Site 8.

The commander at the other site reported that an extremely bright light was repeatedly hovering directly over the site, racing away, returning, and hovering again. Apparently, one of the enlisted men at the site, perhaps the security guard, had observed this activity and reported it to the missile commander.

Moore states that some of Site 7's own enlisted men, including Tech. Sgt. Jack Nevins, were ordered up to the "silo cap" to monitor the situation.

Moore states, "They reported the UFO zooming from the direction of Site 6 to the direction of Site 8 and hovering for awhile at the end of the movement..."

"They all described it as a silent light that moved extremely rapidly—instant go and instant stop, no getting up to speed or slowing down.

"The common comment I remember was that everyone thought it was a UFO, and that it was hovering directly over Sites 6 and 8 and nowhere else. Thus, it was specifically interested in those sites."

Moore states that the Site 7 crew were never debriefed and never warned not to discuss the incident. "In other words," he said, "there was no official discussion or acknowledgment."

Continued next month.

Update on 1976 Iranian jet chase

By Bruce Maccabee

c 2006

Editor's Note: This is the conclusion of the article in the May *Journal*.

The second jet chase

The jet-UFO chase described last month occurred over a period of about 10 minutes. At 1:40 AM, Youssefi ordered a second scramble. (Henry was just getting back to sleep when he was rudely awakened for the second time!)

Almost immediately the pilot of the second craft was in communication with Pirouzi, who reported that the pilot said he could see the UFO from 100 miles away.

The jet flew toward the object, which, according to Pirouzi's recollection of the pilot report, changed direction rapidly and forced the plane to chase it in a circular path.

According to the Air Force teletype message, based on the interview of the second pilot the following day, the "backseater acquired a radar lock on at 27 nm, 12 o'clock high position, with the VC (rate of closure) at 150 mph.

As the range decreased to 25 nm the object moved away at a speed that was visible on the radar scope and stayed at 25 nm."

[Comment: to decrease the distance by 2 nm when the rate of closure is 150 nm/hr would require about 48 seconds. Apparently the VC decreased as the object sped up, meaning that the lock-on period was definitely longer than 48 seconds.]

The AF teletype message further states, "The size of the (radar) return was comparable to a 707 tanker. The visual size of the object was difficult to discern because of its intense brilliance.

"The light that it gave off was that of flashing strobe lights arranged in a rectangular pattern and alternating blue, green, red, and orange in color. The sequence of the lights was so fast that all the colors could be seen at once."

The plane tried to pursue the object while flying south of Tehran. According to Pirouzi, the pilot reported that he couldn't easily follow the track of

the object because it would change its position very fast, appearing at one location and then suddenly at another location.

This was the same sort of saltatory (jumping) motion that



Maccabee

Pirouzi had seen when he first saw the object. But then things started to "heat up."

Chaser becomes the chased

As the second jet attempted to close on the object, it suddenly emitted a smaller bright object, and this object headed toward the jet.

According to the Air Force teletype message, "The object and the pursuing F-4 continued a course to the south of Tehran when another brightly lighted object estimated to be 1/2 to 1/3 the apparent size of the moon came out of the original object.

This second object headed straight toward the F-4 at a very fast pace. The pilot attempted to fire an AIM-9 (heat seeking) missile at the object, but at that instant his weapons control panel went off and he lost all communications (UHF and intercom).

At this point the pilot initiated a turn and a negative G dive to get away. As he turned, the object fell in trail at what appeared to be about 3-4 nm. As he continued in his turn away from the primary object, the second object went to the inside of his turn and then returned to the primary object for a perfect rejoin."

According to Pirouzi, the plane and the second object passed over the air-

port at the time that the plane lost communication. The pilot reported that every time he got close his electronic systems "went crazy," so he was about to give up the chase and land at Mehrabad when the object emitted a secondary object, as described in the previous paragraph.

The pilot reported to Pirouzi that the secondary object started heading toward the airplane. At this time the pilot was approaching the airport, and Pirouzi and the others at the control tower saw this happening.

According to Pirouzi, "I saw this light for the first time, though only for a few seconds" after it first appeared. As the plane went "screaming" over the airport, Pirouzi and the others saw a dark rectangular form almost "sitting" on top of the jet.

It was at about this time that the communications were lost, cut off in mid-sentence. The plane then went into a diving turn, and it wasn't until the plane and object were over Saveh, about 15 miles south of the airport, that communications were re-established.

Then the pilot reported to Pirouzi that the second object had broken off the chase and was traveling within a few meters of the first. Then he reported that they had rejoined, as described above.

A falling light

According to the Air Force teletype message, "Shortly after the second object joined up with the primary object, another object appeared to come out of the other side of the primary object going straight down at a high rate of speed.

The F-4 crew had regained communications and the weapons control panel and watched the object approach the ground anticipating a large explosion. This object appeared to come to rest gently on the earth and cast a very bright light over an area of about 2-3 kilometers." According to a newspaper re-

port, the pilot estimated the size of this smaller object to be about 4.5 m in diameter.

According to Pirouzi, the pilot reported that the smaller object had landed near a refinery in the area known as Rey, and the pilot said that it had such a powerful light that he could see almost everything on the ground for two miles around.

Pirouzi said that he and the others at the control tower saw the descent of the smaller light/object, but could not see where it landed because of obscuring buildings. He could see the glow near the refinery.

The Air Force message says, "The crew descended from their altitude of 26,000 ft to 15,000 ft and continued to observe and mark the object's position. They had some difficulty adjusting their night visibility for landing.

[Note: this could be evidence of the great brightness of the object; their night vision problem would be like looking at the bright full moon for many seconds or a minute and then trying to see stars in the dark sky at a distance away from the moon.]

"So, after orbiting Mehrebad a few times they went out for a straight-in landing. There was a lot of interference in the UHF, and each time they passed through a magnetic bearing of 150 deg from Mehrebad they lost their communications (UHF and intercom), and the INS [inertial navigation system] fluctuated from 30 to 50 degrees.

The one civil airliner that was approaching Mehrebad during this same time experienced communications failure in the same vicinity (Kilo Zulu), but did not report seeing anything."

According to Pirouzi, the F-4 was observing the main UFO as it orbited over the landed UFO light. The pilot said there was so much light he could see the stones on the ground. "It is like daytime," he told Pirouzi.

According to Pirouzi, the general ordered the pilot to descend to 6,000 ft, halfway between the primary object above and the ground below, but when the pilot got to within 15 miles of the UFO he lost all navigational aids.

Then the general ordered the pilot to

shoot down the primary object, but then his firing control panel went dead.

The pilot was finding very strong interference on the radio and also received emergency signals, as had the previous pilot. Finally, running out of fuel, the pilot headed for Mehrebad and landed as described above.

During the final descent the pilot saw something, also. According to the Air Force message, "While the F-4 was on a long final approach, the crew noticed another cylinder-shaped object (about the size of a T bird at 10,000 ft) with bright steady lights on each end and a flasher in the middle."

[Note: this is comparable to Pirouzi's first sighting of the object.]

"When queried, the tower stated that there was no other known traffic in the area. During the time that the object passed over the F-4 the tower did not have a visual on it, but picked it up after the pilot told them to look between the mountains and the refinery."

According to Pirouzi, it was about 4 AM when the original UFO climbed upward and disappeared from view.

The next day, according to the Air Force message, "the F-4 crew was taken out to the area in a helicopter where the object apparently had landed.

Nothing was noticed at the spot where they thought the object landed (a dry lake bed), but as they circled off to the west of the area they picked up a very noticeable beeper signal.

At the point where the return was the loudest was a small house with a garden. They landed and asked the people within if they had noticed anything strange last night. The people talked about a loud noise and a very bright light like lightning.

The aircraft and area where the object is believed to have landed are being checked for possible radiation. More information will be forwarded when it becomes available."

[Note: there are no further US Air Force memoranda on this case. That does not mean that there was no further investigation by the USAF or the IIAF.]

According to the newspapers, the local police were notified when the

smaller object landed, and they began a search for it. However, the result of this search and any other investigations were never published.

The reaction

The fact that two jets were ordered to chase a flying something-or-other is undisputed. The jet chases occurred early Sunday morning, Sept. 19, 1976, and were reported in the next day's newspaper.

During the same day as a follow-up newspaper story appeared (Sept. 21), there was a bold attempt at a cover-up, apparently organized by "an official source."

The aftermath

The pilots were interviewed the next day. The Military Assistance and Advisory Group (MAAG), in the person of Lt. Col. Mooy, sat in on the interview of the second pilot who landed at Mehrebad. (Only a second hand, and very shortened, version of the first pilot's story was available to Col. Mooy.)

This interview forms the core of the official teletype message that was sent to many USA military and intelligence agencies, including the Chief of Staff of the Air Force (CSAF), the Chief of Naval Operations (CNO), the Chief of Staff of the Army (CSA), the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), the National Security Agency (NSA), the White House, the Secretary of State (SECSTATE), the Deputy Under-secretary of Defense (DEPSECDEF) and others.

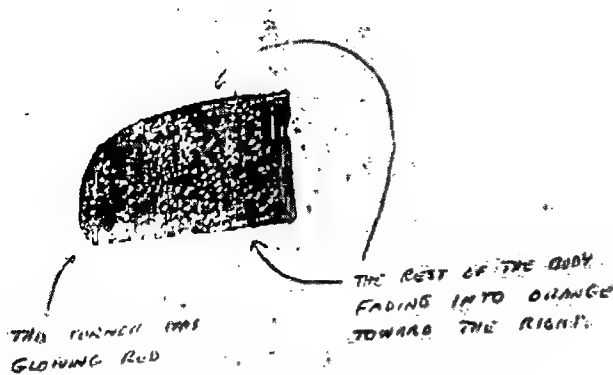
Col. Roland Evans wrote an evaluation of the report, dated Oct. 12, 1976:

1) An outstanding report: this case is a classic which meets all the criteria necessary for a valid study of UFO phenomena.

a. The object was seen by multiple witnesses from different locations (i.e., Shemiran, Mehrebad, and the dry lake bed) and viewpoints (both airborne and from the ground).

b. The credibility of many of the witnesses was high (an Air Force general, qualified aircrews, and experienced tower operators).

c. Visual sightings were confirmed by radar.



Object as it appeared in final sighting.

d. Similar electromagnetic effects (EME) were reported by three separate aircraft. [Note: this refers to the electromagnetic interference reported by the jets and the commercial airliner]

e. There were physiological effects on some crew members (i.e., loss of night vision due to the brightness of the object).

f. An inordinate amount of maneuverability was displayed by the UFOs.

The report evaluation form indicated that the reliability of the information was "confirmed by other sources" and the value of the information was "High (Unique, Timely and of Major Significance)." The information would be "Potentially Useful" as "Current Intelligence."

Self-repairing electronics

Remember Henry, who was rudely awakened as the jets took off at high speed? Henry was a Westinghouse Corporation avionics engineer stationed at Shaharoki AFB, where he participated with the IIAF in maintaining the operation of the radar and other electronics in the F-4 jets.

He told me in an interview in 1982 that during the first couple of days after the first jet landed at Shaharoki AFB he was not allowed to examine the airplane. The Iranians checked the operation of the electronics and told him they found no problem.

The same thing happened at Mehrebad where the second jet landed. Bob, another Westinghouse avionics engineer, was not allowed to examine the jet for several days after the incident.

However, the Iranians did examine

it during the day after it landed, and subsequently told him that everything was OK. Four days after the incident Henry was allowed to examine the first jet, and Bob was allowed to examine the second jet.

They could find no problem with the avionics or radar. Henry told me that there was no possibility that the Iranians

had switched radar systems (taken out the system used during the chase and replaced it with another system), because the Westinghouse engineers had kept track of the system serial numbers. The serial numbers were all the same.

Hence the Westinghouse engineers had to agree with the Iranians that the jet chase had occurred, apparently, with "self-repairing" failures of the avionics on two jets when in the vicinity of the UFO.

Bob told me that he had worked on radar systems such as on the F-4 for many years and had never had a self-repairing failure such as reported by the Iranian pilots.

Radar detections

Referring to the radar detections, Bob said that the comparison of the radar return (the reflection of radar signal from a distant object) with the size of the return from a Boeing 707 indicated that the object was quite large.

He said that a large return lasting a second or two might have been a ground return, but that any return lasting 5 seconds or more was not a ground return.

According to the teletype message, "the backseater acquired a radar lock on at 27 nm, 12 o'clock high position with the VC (rate of closure) at 150 mph.

As the range decreased to 25 nm, the object moved away at a speed that was visible on the radar scope and stayed at 25 nm."

If the rate of closure had stayed constant at 150 nm/hr, it would have taken 48 seconds for the distance to decrease

from 27 to 25 nm. However, according to the pilot the VC decreased as the object sped up, meaning that the lock-on period was definitely longer than 48 seconds.

Conclusion

The object which was seen and detected on airplane radar has not been identified. It must have been a source of considerable optical power because of the bright lights.

Of more importance, it appeared to react to the activities of the jets, and it appears to have taken defensive measures against the jet by seriously affecting the jet electronics (avionics).

Although the American government claims that there was no investigation following the initial interviews of the pilots, the Iranians indicated that there was further investigation.

It seems reasonable that there would have been more investigation by the USAF to try to determine the nature of the failure of the electronics.

What could have affected the avionics at a distance of many miles from each jet? Would intense electromagnetic radiation beamed at a jet cause temporary electronics failure?

How about a beamed "electromagnetic pulse" (EMP)? (EMP is a high strength, very short pulse of electromagnetic field that can cause temporary or permanent failure of some types of electronics and computer systems.)

One thing is certain, if the American defense and intelligence agencies had thought that this object was a Soviet jet carrying some new defensive capability to affect electronics at a distance, they would have spared no expense to find out how it was done and what phenomenon allowed for such awesome capabilities.

On the other hand, the lack of evidence that there was an investigation could mean that there was none, and this, in turn, could mean that the intelligence agencies realized that this was not a Soviet aircraft and, furthermore, that it represented some technology far beyond any earthly technology.

And, realizing this, the intelligence and defense agencies may have just decided to "give up" and ignore it.



FILER'S FILES

By George Filer
Director, MUFON Eastern Region



Note: These reports are presented in order to keep readers informed of some of the vast number of sightings being reported. However, these cases have not been officially investigated, unless noted.

The secret KGB UFO files

Prominent Soviet cosmonaut Pavel Popovich these days holds the position of honorary president of the Academy of Informational and Applied Ufology.

He had once seen a UFO while flying in a passenger plane from Washington to Moscow. Popovich says the object looked like a shining triangle that popped up out of nowhere, flew near the plane at about 1,000 km per hour, then vanished without a trace.

In 1991 Popovich obtained from the KGB the famous Blue Folder, which features numerous descriptions of UFO sightings, and reports on some (mostly failed) attempts taken by the military to catch the aliens.

Nearly 40 years ago, back in 1968, 13 leading aircraft designers and engineers of a brand-new aircraft section of the Soviet Committee on Space Technology and Exploration had forwarded a request to Soviet Prime Minister Alexei Kosygin to set up a special organization for the study of UFOs.

A reply to the letter was signed by academician Dr. Y. D. Shchukin: "A number of competent organizations of the Presidium of the USSR Academy of Sciences, in cooperation with the chief directorate of Meteorological Service, Defense Ministry, and a few other agencies, considered the issue of the

nature of the so-called flying objects.

"The organizations involved in the study of the atmosphere and space have been instructed to register and do research on any cases of UFOs for identification purposes.

"The USSR Academy of Sciences is charged with general monitoring of the phenomena, and therefore a special organization for the study of UFOs is not required."

Vladimir Azhazha, president of the Academy of Information and Applied Ufology and keeper of the Blue Folder, says this response "was a real breakthrough. The authorities not only acknowledged the existence of UFOs for the first time, but also showed their great interest in the issue."

He adds, "The Blue Folder is a 124-page compilation of reports about encounters with UFOs filed by civilian authorities, military unit COs, and eyewitnesses. It took us a long time to get rid of some doubts before making the folder public."

While the cover letter in effect denies any special program by the KGB for monitoring UFO activities, the contents of the folder indicate the opposite.

It is quite obvious that the Soviet secret police launched thoughtful investigations in several cases. (Translated by Guerman Grachev.)

Six objects in New Jersey

CAMDEN — "On the night of April 12, 2006," says the witness, "at around midnight, while looking through my window facing New Jersey, I saw six bright, steady, non-blinking lights, flying in level flight, in a line formation.

"They were moving slowly and about 10-20 degrees elevation, straight and bright. Brighter than any plane I have ever seen; brighter than any star I

ever seen. The lights were too bright to make out any shape, but it was vaguely spherical or possibly saucer."

Texas triangular object

San Antonio — The witness reports, "On March 10, 2006, I was driving on Highway 281 at 12:30 AM past the Alamo Dome when a large bright white light caught my eye ahead in the sky about 500 feet high.

"I then saw the bottom of a triangular-shaped object with red and blue lights on the three corners blinking. I watched it pass over, and turned at the next exit. The object was now near the lookout tower. I turned around again and found a spot to park.

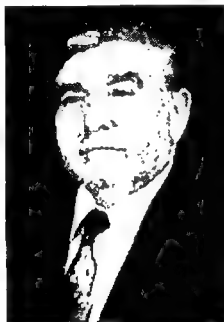
"But when I got near the tower again on the highway there was a second smaller craft with red and orange lights. The craft's top bright light kept turning on and off randomly. The second craft came straight towards me.

"I got scared as this smaller craft with red and orange lights at the three corners of its bottom flew right over me like the larger one did before. It had a top bright light, and changed directions and joined the larger craft quite fast.

"I just kept taking turnarounds and went in circles three times until they disappeared going back and forth across the highway. It is almost as if they were following me.

"About ten minutes later I was near the University of Incarnate Word, still on Highway 281, when I saw the small red and orange craft again 300 feet high. It proceeded to cross my path, giving me another view of its bottom.

"I took the next turnaround again, and when I got back it was gone. I drove a few more minutes before taking the next turnaround, and the larger blue and red craft had returned and was approaching my left side until it got right



George Filer

overhead of me again. This time, however, I saw a bright beam of light shoot out of the bottom of the craft and point everywhere. It pointed its light at cars, buildings, and houses nearby.

"When it passed over, the light was so bright I had to shield my eyes for a second. It was searching for something. It looked disc-shaped. I was scared and lost site of it at 1:40 AM."

Thanks to Peter Davenport, Director, www.ufocenter.com

New Jersey movie theater UFO

Hanover — The witness phoned to tell me she had seen a UFO as she left the local theater about 2 AM in February, 2006. The object descended and was moving at high speed toward them. It had a triangle shape and was about the size of a car. It flew just over the lamppost and waved or wobbled and flew off at high speed.

New York pilot spots UFO

La Guardia — The witness reports, "While Flying at FL340 (34,000 feet) westbound on a flight plan to Kansas City, performing duties associated with my job as a first officer, I noticed a very large strobe at my three o'clock position and at an altitude of 20 to 30 thousand feet above us, tracking SSW. No object outline was seen.

"Its apparent speed was slow, in a south direction. The object 'strobed' once every seven seconds as it moved in what appeared to be a straight line. I asked the captain if he could see what I saw, but from his seating position in the aircraft, and the height of the sighting, he could not, and did not get out of his seat.

"We turned down the DUs (Data display units) in the aircraft to rule out any reflections from inside the cockpit. I called NY Center and asked them if they had any traffic or military traffic 20 to 30 thousand feet above and behind us, and he indicated that he had only a Falcon jet behind us going north.

"The end of the sighting was about 19:20 hours Eastern Time. I don't believe it was a satellite, since satellites don't have strobes. The air traffic controller indicated that he was not sur-

prised at the sighting, as he receives them from time to time.

"I could see no object, just a visible strobe. No position lights. I also thought when I first saw the strobe that it could be a distant star going supernovae." Thanks to Peter Davenport, NUFORC.

Cluster of lights in Mississippi

"On April 3, 2006, working for UPS, I was out delivering packages and saw in the distance a cluster of bright lights flashing in different colors," says the witness. "It was around 8:30 PM, or so and was carried in the local news a few days later.

"It looked like a disco ball. And it was still and made no noise. Then I went back to work, looking at it for about a minute." Thanks to MUFON.com.

UFO filmed in Poland

Lublin — On Feb. 8, 2005, Dariusz M. reportedly saw a strange object suspended in the sky. After a while, another one appeared, so the amazed witness grabbed a video camera and began recording. When he realized that the observed phenomenon was something unusual, he phoned the local Army base.

The witness stated, "I was observing two completely incredible flying objects." A military man ignored him, and said he had heard about similar things on TV.

After the call, the witness again began filming and observing it with binoculars. Finally, he managed to take a one-minute long video.

UFOs hovered in the air, one above another for about 20 minutes. Then one flew away at high speed, and after several seconds the witness lost it from his view. The observer didn't notice the disappearance of the second craft.

The UFOs were disc-shaped and metallic in color. Dariusz adds, "I noticed, using my binoculars, a white glow emitting beams around the discs. They were joined together and seemed to exchange energy."

Following the sighting, Dariusz reported that "light bulbs in my house were broken, and my cell phone

stopped working."

Several days later, an unknown black car was parked near his house all night. An anonymous military man called to confirm the observation and claimed that there was a report and even attempts made to localize the objects with radars.

A UFO was also detected over Konopnica several miles away. Thanks to: Piotr Cielebias: NOL, *Polish UFO Journal*.

Triangular lights in California

Playa Del Rey — "I was having a cigarette," says the witness, "looking for satellites, when I saw three lights in a triangle shape, at 1:35 AM on April 3, 2006, moving faster and higher than any plane I've ever seen.

"I see a lot of planes as I live next to LAX. But these made no noise, not even a delay of noise. As they went towards the horizon heading west, the object changed shape, and two lights went left (south) and disappeared. The third stayed straight and disappeared."

Rectangle with Lights in NY

Castleton — "A friend and I were driving on Brookview Road," says the witness, "when I noticed an object hovering above the trees on April 5, 2006.

"It was cloudy enough that you could not see any stars, and at first my friend thought it might be a helicopter, until we came closer and I could make out the object's silhouette.

"We had our windows down, and it was silent, so I knew even before I saw the outline of the object that it was neither a plane nor a helicopter.

"From what I could make out from the silhouette, the object was rectangular, with two red lights and a row of white lights, one of which was flashing.

"It did not have any lights on either side which would indicate wings on a plane, and planes cannot hover. It was hovering below the clouds and above the tree line. Two or three seconds later, the object had vanished."

Thanks to MUFON Hq.

New Mexico Video of UFO

Lordsburg — Benjie Medina writes on Feb. 22, 2006, "We have a

great deal of UFO activity going on day and night that Ramon Ortiz is capturing on video. We captured a cloud-like object that was lighter than the sky, when suddenly a strange maneuvering light came out of the cloud.

"The light hovered in the sky, and periodically it changed shape, but stayed in the area for over five minutes. Two maneuvering objects were captured in this video."

Ohio floating object

Stryker — The witness reports, "I was driving on Ohio Route 2/191 on March 5, 2005, on a clear crisp day with blue skies, and I noticed a disc-like object very high in the sky a couple of miles away.

"It was clearly not moving in any particular direction and actually seemed to be keeping stationary. I noticed a plane directly above with contrails and somewhat near the object. But this object was not a plane.

"I would say definitely silver, and I would describe it as just floating. I kept a direct eye on it so I didn't lose sight of it as I kept driving. But in a virtual instant the object was gone right before I hit the little town of Stryker.

"It blipped out on a clear day, and would have taken extraordinary speed to vanish. One moment it was there, then gone."

Three objects in Pennsylvania

Quakertown—The witness reports, "I just witnessed three silver round objects around the sun on April 2, 2006! We (my husband and I) were looking up to check the chimney on our house at 3:05 PM, and we saw these three objects darting across the sky right in line with the sun.

"They would do circles around each other, then it seemed like they fused together, and then would make what looked like an upside down triangle.

"They are still there as I write this. Our camera wouldn't be able to capture it due to the fact that it is right in the Sun's rays, and the only way we could actually see them was to block the rays by standing and looking in the shadow of our chimney.

"I have never seen anything like this before. They look like toys playing, and spinning around each other, then colliding and separating to make this triangle formation. They were WAY up there.

"I also saw to the right of them a long, thin silver-shaped object that just hovered there and never moved. Wish I could send pictures, but I would swear this on a stack of Bibles and take a lie detector test!

Canada orb-like objects

Chandler (Gaspesie, Quebec—"On March 6, 2006, at 4 PM," says the witness, "I was having tea in the kitchen with my biological mother, and I wanted to ask her about a UFO sighting she had the night I was conceived.

"I looked out the window and noticed the light in the sky, like something falling, but it moved slow enough across the sky and disappeared behind the trees and houses.

"It took about 4 or 5 minutes to fade out of sight. I took a few photos—the best I could out of my upstairs bathroom window.

"I had a dream the day before the sighting of a big white orb floating down to earth. It looked like a white glowing globe with a map of the world outlined on it in sparkling diamonds.

"I ran in to get my camera and went back out to take photos, and in the sky were little twinkling golden stars which moved about and formed into a lion's head, then into the shape of the sphinx, then I was abruptly awake

Monthly statistical MUFON report for March 2006:

CMS continues to receive sighting reports from around the globe. In March, 2006, there were 97 sightings reported to MUFON through CMS.

There were two sightings from Canada, and two from the UK. There were 88 from United States.

To report sightings, be sure to enter them manually into CMS. To make this happen automatically, make sure your local web site is at the CMS reporting form on www.mufon.com.

Direct all calls you get to the MUFON web site so that witnesses can enter their own report directly into CMS.

Interesting data points in CMS during March 2006, are the shape of the UFOs reported which were as follows: star-like 23, circle 21, disc 17, sphere 15, Triangle 12, boomerang and fireballs 6, and cigars 5.

New Jersey and some other states need Field Investigators, as reports are flowing in.

An expert opinion

"Professor Goddard does not know the relation between action and reaction and the need to have something better than a vacuum against which to react.

He seems to lack the basic knowledge ladled out daily in high schools."

—*New York Times* editorial, 1921 (about Robert Goddard's revolutionary rocket work)

MUFON Forum

Strieber responds

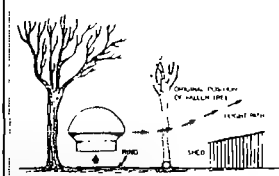
The UFO and close encounter phenomena are not necessarily about aliens. Nobody knows what they are about. Nevertheless, your recent article [MUFON Forum, May, 2006] about me is ridiculously inaccurate, because one thing they are obviously NOT about is the imagination.

Must it be either aliens or imagination? What stupidity, in the face of a universe as wondrous, subtle and complex as the one in which we find ourselves.

Statements attributed to Anne Strieber in your article were never made by her. Glynnis McKay does not believe that my encounters were imaginary and has never said this to anybody.

At no time did I or anybody associated with me say that my claims were imaginary. On the contrary, I continue to claim the opposite: my encounters were physically real. Who they were with is another story. I can't say aliens because I can't prove that, obviously.

—Whitley Strieber



Physical Traces

By Ted Phillips

Marley Woods, Part Two

Last month I described my investigation of a series of events at a rural Missouri site involving strange lights and a tank-like object. This month the case becomes more involved, with a mysterious force and ground traces.

December 20, 1998

The first event suggesting an unusual force with considerable effect took place at the home of RR, which is located 1,900 feet SE of the cabin.

Witnesses aged 11, 12, and 45 were watching television

when the 1/4 inch thick glass on the front of their stereo cracked down the middle vertically. No one in the house was walking or moving around.

They were startled by the loud cracking sound, and ran across the living room to the stereo. Just as they reached the unit they all heard a terrific crashing sound at the opposite end of the house.

They ran out the front door, then around the house to the garage located on the east side at ground level. There they found a junked truck against the garage door with the tow bar penetrating the door.

The truck had been towed to the gravel/dirt drive and left 12 feet from the door with the front tow bar attached and in a vertical position. The truck is a 4-wheel drive with no engine.

RR had left the truck in gear, emergency brake on, and wheels locked. The truck has a set of oversized, wide traction tires, and the bed was full of heavy parts.



Ted Phillips

The truck had been "pushed" 12 feet with the tires digging into the gravel/dirt drive for that distance, leaving grooves indicating that the wheels had not turned during its trip to the door.

The tow bar had dropped to the horizontal, penetrated the door, and was then thrown across the garage, a distance of 20 feet. The witnesses reportedly tried to push the truck and couldn't move it an inch.

Obviously a considerable force was required to perform this action. Of great interest is the lack of fresh dents or marks to the rear of the truck, which would have indicated an impact or pressure point.

RR, along with others at his home, has experienced several sightings of aerial objects, and has video of some. He told of the event only after the cabin owner asked him if he had seen the odd lights.

On an earlier occasion, MR was sitting with her dog just west of the house at sunset when a small globe approached from the southwest and descended to a point 30 feet away.

As it hovered silently, she ran to the house. When she looked out the door, it was gone. The dog did not react to the object.

In 1999 RR saw a spinning globe less than three feet in diameter hovering just off the ground. As he approached it with a flashlight it moved away swiftly.

When I returned for the second time, the cabin owner had talked with other people in the area and found some pre-1998 sightings had taken place. He and I talked with those witnesses and recorded the following events.

1960: South of the cabin property—D and J K, brothers, saw three "lighted" discs moving toward them from the east. It was 10 AM, and they were in their front yard. The objects

were in a single file, made no sound, and were moving directly toward them and their house.

The objects were about four feet in diameter, were light orange, and appeared to glow. When the objects were about 200 feet from them, D said it appeared the objects realized they were heading toward a house, and they abruptly turned to travel back in the general direction from which they had come.

He said they were no more than 100 feet above a hickory tree in their yard when they turned back. J and D told no one about this for 40 years.

1969: J A, age 70, a rancher and owner of a construction company and 600 acres divided into three farms, lives five miles south of the cabin area. He had never told anyone (even his wife) about the event.

This man is an extremely credible individual. The observation took place on his third farm, located 10 miles north of the cabin area.

J was chasing a runaway steer into a wooded area at dusk. He entered a long valley with scattered trees and a stream, and saw an object very low to the ground entering the valley from the north.

The object appeared as two saucers placed rim to rim. It was about 9 feet in diameter and perhaps 5 feet thick. On the object rim there were four white lights. As the object traveled along the stream it would ascend vertically over trees in its path.

As it ascended, a whirring sound was heard and the four lights became very bright, lighting the ground below in a stark, pure white light. As it dropped back to the lower flight path the lights would dim and no sound was heard.

He could see the object quite clearly, became frightened, and stood quietly watching for several minutes as it con-

tinued to follow the valley—passing him at a distance of 40 feet.

It ascended over trees and dropped back down several times, each time with the whirring sound and the brighter lights. The object finally disappeared in the distance, still traveling the valley.

He felt it was looking for something on the ground. The next day many of the trees along the objects path displayed wilting leaves.

1970: E B, caretaker of the cabin, told me of an event on his parents' farm. They found near their house a burnt ring nine to ten feet in diameter. Three holes were found inside the ring, forming a triangle. A number of people witnessed the ring, but no photographs were taken.

Summer, 1986: Three miles NE of the cabin a man, wife, and their four daughters observed four brightly glowing objects approaching their farm home and descending to the ground.

The objects were either very low to the ground or landed, and were less than 200 feet from the house. The children became frightened and crawled under their beds.

The husband called a relative, asking for help and describing the scene outside. The relatives arrived to find the objects gone and the frightened family locked in their home.

At the site they found four burnt rings about 20 feet in diameter and a great deal of plant damage. No photographs were taken and no report made.

1989: Five miles south of the cabin, P H and her son and daughter, then ages 5 & 8, were in the area between the house and small sheds in evening twilight. The daughter was on a trampoline located just behind the house, and the son was standing by watching.

P turned and walked a hundred feet or so when she heard the kids screaming. As she turned, she saw them running toward her screaming and very frightened.

P saw nothing, but as the kids calmed down they both told her there was a white circular object over the trampoline and almost touching the upper branches of a tree. There was no sound during the time P was walking away.

The tree died within two weeks of the event. I talked with the son and daughter, now teenagers, and they confirmed the details. They both said the object looked like a round cloud, pure white in color with no sound.

1988: J C, 57, lives five miles north-east of the cabin. J and his wife observed a cigar-shaped object which he spotted over the field behind his house at about 9 PM.

The object was large, with what appeared to be several illuminated "windows." It hovered for 30 minutes projecting a brilliant beam of light toward the ground. It then landed briefly less than 200 feet away, ascended after a few seconds, and flew silently away at a rather flat angle.

The next morning he and his sons found six imprints measuring 24 by 30 inches. The imprints showed the grass to be depressed, but not pressed into the ground. No indication of massive pressure.

Mid 1990's: Witness, 93, was coon hunting late at night in the National Forest with his mule, who carried supplies, as they would go very deep in the forest. It was a cool, clear night when suddenly the entire area ahead of him was illuminated with a brilliant, pure white light.

Just above the light was a huge circular object, no sound, and no other lights. The light came on "like an electric light switched on." He could clearly see every detail in the forest "as if it was daylight."

The object and light slowly moved across the heavy woods and went dark. Seconds later it came back on and was several hundred feet away.

It continued to light the area for about a minute, went out, and was not seen again. He never went coon hunting at night again.

October, 1997: witnesses 34 & 35, 7.5 miles east of the cabin. The couple was driving home at night when they saw three amber spheres or circular lights on a dark object.

The lights were bright, but soft at the same time. They were hovering very near the ground over the road just ahead of them. As they closed on the object,

D hit his brakes and slid to a stop less than 300 feet from the display. As they started to get out of the car, the lights vanished.

1999: There were no reported sightings after the 12/20/98 event until **Jan. 26, 1999**, when a large medium amber object was seen in the north sky. It appeared to be stationary and had a tail underneath it (ice cream cone shape).

The object was observed for 45 seconds until a truck pulled up and turned off its lights. The object disappeared instantly.

February, 1999: On Feb. 3, P H, located two miles west of the cabin, said that her son and daughter had run into the house saying an orange globe of light had come down very near them.

March 1, 1999: At the cabin, 7:30 PM, cabin owner and wife. "We drove to my barn," he reports, "and as we were stopping, I saw eight very bright amber lights across the northeastern sky. The lights were in a straight line, but on an incline."

"After the first lights disappeared we saw a large, bright white light appear high in the eastern sky. It hovered, then moved eastward in a very erratic path. It stopped and started several times, as well as up and down and spiral movements at tremendous speed."

"After this light disappeared in the distance, we saw large lights in the northern and northeastern sky. Over a period of ten minutes, an almost continual display began appearing."

"As the orange lights became brighter, smaller orange lights were seen exiting and traveling away from the larger lights, some northerly and some in an easterly direction."

March 9, 1999: at the cabin, owner and wife drove to the front gate to leave. R J (witness, 26) drove up and told them he had been sitting along the road about 1,000 feet south of the cabin and had seen three orange lights.

"He said that while we were driving from the cabin to the gate," says the owner, "two lights appeared behind us to the north. While we talked, all three of us saw two bright orange lights north of the cabin."



PERCEPTIONS

By Stanton T. Friedman

Drake Equation

On March 25 I presented the final lecture of the day at the Aztec, NM, Annual Crash Anniversary Conference.

The reality of the March, 1948, crash, about which I had initially been quite skeptical, has become more and more believable, thanks primarily to the fine research by Scott Ramsey.

This year the title of my program was "UFOs vs. SETI: Science vs. Pseudoscience."

In my lecture I contrasted the enormous amount of evidence indicating some UFOs are extraterrestrial spacecraft and the total absence of evidence provided by the SETI community to justify both their neglect of the UFO evidence and their strange reasoning that listening for radio signals from ET is somehow a scientific endeavor.

It is not that SETI specialists don't mention UFOs. It is that they just about always claim that there is no evidence or no convincing evidence or no physical evidence.

One thing is for sure: they don't reference the solid scientific studies in their books or papers or TV appearances. In Aztec I noted five large scale scientific studies which I normally discuss at the beginning of my "Flying Saucers ARE Real" college lectures.

I usually ask, after showing a slide of each one and discussing its contents: "How many here have read this volume?"

On a good night I will get 1-2% who have read one of the five. None of the SETI literature references these studies.

Dr. Seth Shostak of the SETI Institute heard my lecture on board the Queen Elizabeth 2 during a cruise in 2003. He hadn't raised his hand after any of the five, and in a later debate on Coast to Coast Radio it was clear that he had "forgotten" all five.

Surprisingly, these academic types typically also ignore the dozen or so PhD theses about UFOs that have been published, and also ignore the many papers presented by professional scientists at the annual MUFON symposia and included in the *Symposium Proceedings*. There are literally hundreds of such papers.



Stan Friedman

the idea (UFOs). That's wrong. Their skepticism is rooted in the lack of good evidence."

It is strange how neither Shostak nor any of the other SETI cultists ever discuss the evidence they say isn't good.

I quoted Carl Sagan from the enormously successful COSMOS TV series seen by 600 million people in 60 countries.

On the Encyclopedia Galactica segment (1980) he stated, "What counts is not what seems plausible, not what we would like to believe, not what one or two witnesses claim, but only what is supported by hard evidence. Extraordinary claims require extraordinary evidence."

Really?? So why was Carl's next statement, "There must be other civilizations far older and more advanced than ours." None of the SETI cultists have provided any evidence, much less extraordinary evidence, of any such civilization.

Worldwide UFO reports certainly

provide evidence of more advanced civilizations. The SETI community ignores this evidence.

I defined cult as "a sect adhering to a common ideology or doctrine when such adherence or devotion is based on fanatical beliefs or dogmas." Sounds right to me for SETI.

Sagan, for example, in *Scientific American*, in 1984, gave this definition: "SETI is an attempt to use large radio telescopes, sophisticated receivers and modern data analysis to detect hypothetical signals sent our way by advanced civilizations on planets around other stars."

Notice that this leaves out Optical SETI which is searching for brief, very powerful, laser signals from other stars. It leaves out evaluation of photographs of UFOs, physical trace cases (including reports of beings associated with extraordinary vehicles sitting just above the ground), and abductions.

It ignores multiple witness visual and radar observations of objects behaving in ways that Earth-originated flying objects—observed by experts concerned with things flying within the atmosphere—cannot duplicate.

Most astronomers are not well acquainted with evaluation of witness testimony, radar measurements, or pilot observations. Atmospheric physicists such as the late James E. McDonald are well acquainted with such phenomena. Note well: "hypothetical" signals.

Carl compounded his false reasoning with this claim: "The search for alien civilizations retains its importance despite the striking failure of the UFO evidence.... There are reliable sightings that are not interesting, and interesting sightings that are not reliable, but no interesting and reliable sightings."

This is unequivocally false. In Project Blue Book Special Report 14 the quality distribution shows that the

greater the reliability of a particular case, the MORE likely to be unexplainable.

35% of the Excellent cases could not be identified. "Only" 18% of the poor cases couldn't be identified.

Carl talks of sightings. What about radar visual cases, photographs, and physical trace cases that leave behind evidence that can be examined and tested later?

Furthermore, SETI is not the search for alien civilizations, according to Carl's definition. It is a very restricted search for radio signals. The sending device could originate from a long dead civilization.

Along these same lines, I also noted Dr. Jill Tartar's comment in February, 2006: "SETI is the only research program looking for life beyond the solar system. It is the way we are going to understand where we are coming from and how we are going to survive as a species...the search could yield headlines within a few decades."

One expects cultists to have a strong sense of how important they are to the survival of the species. Does anybody really believe that detecting and interpreting a signal from a distant civilization will help us survive here?

Hardly, especially, as noted below, when they think there may be one signal-sending civilization within 1,000 light years? Descendants of SETI leaders will be asking for help and get an answer 2,000 years later...

As if in response to my talk, there was an article by Dr. Shostak in the May issue of *Discover Magazine* entitled "Drake's Brave Guess."

He waxed poetic about the Drake Equation, originated 45 years ago by radio astronomer Frank Drake (now co-director of the SETI Institute) which supposedly is a scientific approach to determining the number of civilizations in the galaxy capable of sending radio signals.

The idea is that, if we just keep listening, we will make the great discovery that man is not alone in the galaxy. The reasoning is a great example of pseudo-science.

The primary reason for the article

was the fact that the new Allen Telescope Array with 42 dishes, each 20 feet in diameter, is just going on line at Hat Creek in Northern California. Eventually there will be many more dishes.

He really seems to believe the quaint notion that our best systems are on a par with alien civilizations' best capabilities, apparently assuming they would not have improved in what could easily be the billion years during which such systems have been around.

I was using a slide rule 50 years ago. I don't anymore. A laser printer is not just a better IBM Selectric Typewriter. Atomic bombs are not just bigger 10 ton block busters that were used earlier in WW 2.

Of course Shostak doesn't mention that Hat Creek can't tune into southern sky alien radio transmitters, even assuming they are still transmitting using very old, for them, technology.

In the "Zeta Reticuli Incident" by Terence Dickinson, which discusses Marjorie Fish's very exciting research on the Betty Hill star map, it is noted that many sun-like stars in the neighborhood can be seen only from below the equator.

Shostak presents the Sacred Drake Equation, and then plays dartboard physics to try to come up with values for such things as on what fraction of planets life develops; on what fraction of those intelligence develops; on what fraction of those the ability to send radio signals develops; and, perhaps most important, the lifetime of a civilization.

Considering that we have data for some of these factors from only one planet around only one star in a galaxy of a few hundred billion stars, one can see that this is just a mite of a stretch, a rather huge extrapolation.

The galaxy may be 13 billion years old and the Sun is only about 4.5 billion years old. But Zeta 1 and Zeta 2 Reticuli, just 39 light years away, are a billion years older than the Sun, and just down the street.

Unlike us, they each have a neighboring sun-like star 1/8 of a light year away. What if a civilization colonizes a number of nearby planets, and what if

each of those, in turn, colonizes others, and on and on?

No consideration of this possibility is taken into account. Shostak assumes 10,000 years for a lifetime. A dynamic colonizing group may last for millions of years.

Shostak reviews how our thoughts of several of the factors have changed. "When Drake and his compatriots plugged their best guesses into the equation, they came up with an answer in the thousands—meaning that intelligent life is common enough that there should be a technological civilization within about 1,000 light years."

I find it impossible to be excited by such false reasoning. The distribution of major cities in North America is hardly uniform. Shostak thinks Drake had it right in 1961.

He does allow, "When a technological civilization develops rockets, the colonization of nearby space will likely follow." Sounds like he means within a solar system.

He might have pointed out that nuclear fusion was discovered to be the source of the Sun's energy within a couple of years of the use of the first dish radio telescope.

Fusion rockets can provide 10 million times as much energy per particle emitted as can be provided by a chemical rocket.

Nowhere in the article is it noted that within that 1,000 light years there are over 5 million stars. Only one other advanced civilization? Surely makes us special, doesn't it?

A quick thought as to why the opposition to UFOs is so strong in the SETI community. If aliens are visiting, than who needs radio telescopes?

Discover has a comic book style cartoon with a Jill Tartar saying, "But Carl, we've been listening...and we don't hear ANYTHING." The cartoon Carl Sagan replies; "Jill, there are BILLIONS and BILLIONS...."

I must agree with Carl. But they aren't sending old fashioned radio signals. They are sending visitors. That is what the evidence shows.

<http://www.stantonfriedman.com>
fsphys@rogers.com

Director's Message

(Continued from page 2)

21 in conjunction with the 2006 International UFO Symposium. This is a good time to reach out to the media, local agencies and clubs, and the public in every locale in order to obtain new UFO reports and new members for MUFON.

MUFON Headquarters has a fresh supply of UFO Awareness T-shirts with the MUFON logo on the front and the words "Others talk, we investigate..." on the back. Shirts are available in black with white letters or white with black letters. A special price discount will be given to state and local groups ordering five or more shirts.

Position announcements

MUFON's new Director of Investigations is **Charles C. "Chuck" Reeve** of Truckee, CA. Chuck is a Field Investigator, State Section Director, MUFON Lifetime Member, and Chief Investigator for Northern California, and is a strong advocate of the use of the MUFON Case Management System (CMS).

He is an amateur radio operator, amateur astronomer, volunteer police officer for the City of Truckee, and a member of the International Association of Financial Crimes Investigators.

He has experience in search and rescue communications, fraud investigations, ethics training, and the development of training manuals.

Lin Simpson has been on hiatus while traveling in Europe and living in Saudi Arabia. Previously, Lin was the MUFON Director of Membership and the Chair of the annual MUFON International UFO Symposium for 2004 and 2005. Now that she has returned, she has accepted the position of MUFON's Director of Special Projects as defined in the MUFON Strategic Plan.

John S. Carpenter has accepted the position of "Consultant-at-Large in Abduction Research. John is a psychologist, social worker and clinical hypnotist. He has investigated more than 140 abduction cases.

Woody Smith of Denver, CO, has accepted the position of Research Specialist in Mountaineering. In addition, he is a writer and historical researcher.

Ralph Soule of Brightwood, OR, has accepted the position of Research Specialist in Geophysics.

Carol Baldwin of Altadena, CA, has accepted the position of Research Specialist in Library Science.

New Lifetime Members

It is a pleasure to recognize **James Carrion** of Bellvue, CO; **Thomas Deuley** of Canutillo, TX; **Jeff Harzan** of Thousand Oaks, CA; **Pamela Rodriguez** of Santa Clarita, CA; and **Zoh Rodriguez** of Santa Clarita, CA; as new MUFON Lifetime Members. We are extremely grateful for this vote of confidence and outstanding level of support for MUFON.

New Field Investigators

Kathleen Marden, Director of Field Investigator Training, has announced that **Belisario Alanis** of Lake Forest, CA; **Arlene Chukusky** of Swansea, SC; **Steve Durham** of Norman, OK; **Cassandra Klesch** of Valley City, OH; **Michael Lewand** of Winter Park, FL; **Vincenzo Macrino** of Sea Isle City, NJ; **Julie May** of Norman, OK; **William May** of Norman, OK; **Robert Mayer** of Wheaton, IL; **Carmelle Peloquin** of Cornell, WI; **David Ruffino** of Carmichael, CA; **William Sikes** of Sarasota, FL; and **James Sutton, Sr.** of Newport, NC; have passed the MUFON Field Investigator's Exam and are now MUFON Field Investigators.

All Field Investigator Trainees are urged to self-study the *MUFON Field Investigator's Manual* and take the exam.

The manual is available from MUFON Headquarters for \$25 plus \$3.50 p&h in the U.S. Total price for delivery outside the U.S. is \$49.50. It may also be purchased via the Internet at www.mufon.com using PayPal.

New media by MUFON members

George D. Fawcett has just released his new 2006 5th edition illustrated book *What We Have Learned from UFO Repetitions & Human Reactions to UFOs and Ufonauts Worldwide*. It may be ordered from George at 602 Battleground Road, Lincolnton, NC 28092 for \$12 including p&h.

Estate planning

Planned giving can be beneficial to both MUFON and to your own tax and estate situation.

If you wish to have more information on various options and benefits, please contact MUFON Headquarters.

MUFON sighting reports

Field Investigators: Please send a copy of your sighting reports directly to the *Journal*. This can be done as email in Word (with photos and drawings sent as .jpeg), or by snail mail.

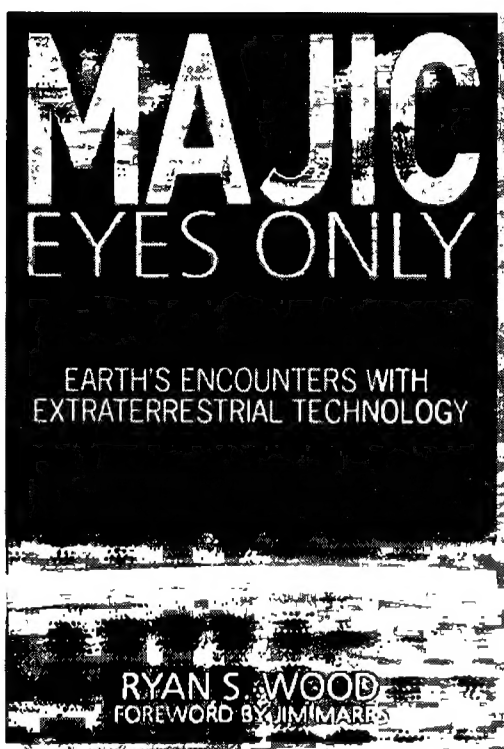


June 16-18—SGRA conference, Howard Johnson Motel, Milford, CT, featuring Jeff Belanger, John Zaffis, Stacey Jones, Stephen Wagner, Nick Roesler, Diane Bajorinas, Jon Nowinski, Todd Bates, Dr. Jimmy Lowerey, David Twichell, and Mark Mihalko. www.sgra-media.org.

July 14-16—The 37th Annual MUFON International UFO Symposium, Marriott Denver Tech Center Hotel, Denver, CO. "Unconventional Flying Objects: The Best Evidence." Featured speakers include Brian Boldman, Carl Feindt, Linda Moulton Howe, David Marler, Ted Phillips, Ron Regehr, Steve Reichmuth, Kenneth Storch, Marshall Vian Summers, Ruben Uriarte, and Ryan Wood.

Oct. 28—Mysteries of Space & Sky III, near Annapolis, MD, featuring Don Berliner, Rob/Sue Swiatek, Anna Jamerson, Dr. Charles Emmons, and (conference organizer) Dr. S. Peter Resta (spr100@aol.com) 410-360-1168 X 8

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